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DAILY TRIBUNE

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By: Aldwin Quitasol

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Philippine Information Agency

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By: Climate Change Commission

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MANILA BULLETIN

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

BBC

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By: Louise Cullen

Northern Ireland has taken a step closer to establishing a Just Transition Commission (JTC), with draft regulations to be brought to the Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee and the Assembly. Agriculture and rural representatives will be among those on the Commission. The JTC is a key element of climate change legislation and seeks to ensure no-one is left behind or unduly disadvantaged by the transition to a low-carbon society. Farming leaders say it must "deal honestly with what is achievable on farms".

The Daera minister Andrew Muir said progressing the JTC was "an important milestone" for Northern Ireland, adding the JTC would be "essential" in delivering fair climate action.

What does a Just Transition Commission do ?

A JTC oversees the implementation of climate action to ensure the transition to a low-carbon society is fair and inclusive.

That means that no one sector of the community should be disadvantaged or left behind by decision-making on achieving net zero. Commissions have already been set up in Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, as well as other countries around the world including Germany, South Africa and New Zealand. Northern Ireland's JTC will be the first in these islands to be established in statute.

Who will sit on the Commission?

Under climate change legislation, seven sectors are required to be represented on the JTC - academia; youth groups; civic society; trade unions; fisheries; agriculture; and environment.

After a ten-week consultation, it is proposed to add representatives from energy, transport, the built environment, the rural sector, and green finance.

The Commission will also oversee the Just Transition Fund for agriculture that is also required under the legislation. A competition to appoint the commissioners will be held after the regulations progress through the Committee and Assembly.

The design of the Commission will be based on the Scottish model, where a JTC has been in operation since 2019.

Farmers have concerns

The Ulster Farmers' Union said the Commission "must confront the hard reality facing farmers", adding that agriculture-specific targets are "simply unachievable". Deputy president John McClenaghan said the UFU supported the establishment of the JTC, but its success would depend on whether it would "deal honestly with what is achievable" on farms. "Agriculture faces unique and unavoidable biological

constraints, and climate targets that ignore these realities are neither fair nor credible." Agriculture is the biggest contributor of greenhouse gases in Northern Ireland. The independent Climate Change Committee, which advises the UK government on climate change, has recommended a shift to low-carbon farming to meet emission reduction targets. Work is underway to try to reduce emissions through making production more efficient, improving soil quality and looking at feed additives to cut the amount of methane produced by livestock.

McClenaghan said agriculture was prepared to play its part in tackling climate change.

"But it must be evidence-based, proportionate and achievable. "The current legislative framework does not yet strike that balance. "It is essential that the Commission recognises these shortcomings and works to ensure that farmers are not asked to shoulder an unreasonable share of the burden, while continuing to produce safe, affordable food."

BANGKOK POST

[Climate change discourse takes a new turn](#)

By: Bjorn Lomborg

What a difference a single year makes. The once-dominant push to radically reshape society to avert climate catastrophe has collapsed. Look at Davos -- the talkfest long dominated by climate advocacy. That consensus has been abandoned by its once strongest proponents.

Emblematic of the shift: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen didn't mention the climate transition once in her 2026 Davos talk -- after putting it front and centre in preceding years.

But it's not just the Europeans. Canadian premier Mark Carney once called for "a global net zero commitment" to solve climate change which he saw as "an existential threat". Now, he admits that the "architecture of collective problem-solving" long supported by World Economic Forum elites, and including United Nations-organised climate change summits, has been "diminished". At home, he's pledging to make Canada into an "energy superpower".

In the US, even Democratic politicians have stopped leading with climate change as a central issue, shifting focus to affordability, low energy prices, and immediate economic relief instead. Zohran Mamdani, the democratic socialist winner of the New York City mayoral election, campaigned on rising grocery bills and housing costs, and barely discussed climate change.

This global shift is not all down to the election of Donald Trump. Other issues have become much more important, and people are reading and watching climate change news less across all Global North. The media itself has less to say: According to a Washington Post analysis, 2025 saw the fewest media mentions of climate change since March 2022.

This course correction means that the media and leftwing politicians are catching up with the public, who say climate change ranks low even compared to other environmental concerns. A Pew Research Center global survey from last August found a reduction over the past few years across all high-income countries seeing climate change as a major threat. This recalibration even extends to advocacy groups and observers, who have retreated from confrontational doomerism.

This retreat is good for sensible policy, because the failed alarmist approach relied on a series of persistent misrepresentations. Take the claim that extreme events, because of climate change, have dramatically made us worse off. This is simply untrue.

Deaths from climate-related disasters such as storms, floods, droughts and fire have declined sharply over the past century, with the last decade seeing some of the lowest numbers ever, despite global

population quadrupling. In the 1920s, the global death toll was near half a million per year on average -- last year it was less than ten thousand, a reduction of over 97%.

This progress results from better warnings, stronger infrastructure, improved disaster response, and overall societal wealth that enables such protections. Adaptation through innovation has proven far more effective than fear-driven restrictions.

Another big fib is the idea that China is rapidly going green. The reality is that China is massively reliant on fossil fuels just like everyone else. Half a century ago, China got 40% of its energy from renewables -- when it relied on wood and dung because people were poor. As Chinese people have become massively wealthier, fossil fuels peaked at producing 92% of the country's energy in 2011 -- and that figure has only ebbed slightly, to 87% in 2023.

Ambitious commitments at successive climate summits to redirect enormous financial flows toward poor countries for green projects have proven illusory. Activists and politicians demanded urgent, economy-wide transformations, insisting that only massive shifts could avert disaster. They mobilised calls for trillions to flow from taxpayers and conventional industries into renewables. Those grand visions have faltered, and private capital has all but withdrawn amid high risks and uncertain returns.

Europe provides the starkest warning of idealism clashing with reality. Germany's vaunted energy transition has been a textbook case of climate scares driving poor but immensely costly decisions. Now, Chancellor Friedrich Merz confesses that Germany has achieved "the most expensive energy transition in the entire world".

The transition from exaggeration to muted realism is at least some progress. This reflects recognition that exaggerated fear tactics have led to public disconnection, bad policies and political backlash. Now we need to focus on what works. For now, we should deliver cheap, secure energy to boost prosperity while we innovate for a greener future.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[DSWD boosts community resilience vs climate change](#)

By: Aldwin Quitasol

BAGUIO CITY — One of the most effective ways to lessen the impacts of climate change is by building strong, well-prepared communities. That's the focus of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Regional Field Office (DSWD-RFO) Cordillera this year.

According to the agency, these efforts are being integrated across multiple programs to help local communities adapt to environmental changes.

A key part of this strategy is the "Pagkilos: Philippine Community Resilience Project," launched in November 2025 by DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian. Implemented through the Kalahi-CIDSS program, it engages residents directly in local resilience planning.

DSWD Cordillera reports that the program currently covers 10 municipalities and 135 barangays, with a total budget of P186 million. Other ongoing initiatives include "Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay — Community Driven Development," which aims to finish six sub-projects according to technical schedules.

The agency has also set aside P4.35 million for a Cash for Work program benefiting 370 college students and graduates, and P2.35 million for 500 persons with disabilities under a similar scheme.

RAPPLER

[Tropical Depression Basyang weakens into LPA then dissipates](#)

By: Acor Arceo

Manila, Philippines – Tropical Depression Basyang (Penha) weakened into a low pressure area (LPA) while moving over the Sulu Sea at 2 am on Saturday, February 7, then dissipated at 8 am.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said no new LPAs or potential tropical cyclones are being monitored inside or outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Basyang entered PAR last Tuesday, February 3. It made landfall five times — once in Mindanao when it was at its peak as a tropical storm, and four times in the Visayas as a tropical depression.

Thursday, February 5, as a tropical storm

- Bayabas, Surigao del Sur (11:50 pm)

Friday, February 6, as a tropical depression

- Jagna, Bohol (11 am)
- Dausi, Bohol (4 pm)
- Alcoy, Cebu (7:50 pm)
- Ayungon, Negros Oriental (9 pm)

During the peak of Basyang's onslaught, it dumped heavy to torrential rain, especially in the regions of Caraga and Northern Mindanao. Floods and landslides hit various areas. Signal No. 2 was the highest [tropical cyclone wind signal](#) raised.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said on Saturday morning that two people were reported dead in Caraga.

While Basyang is gone, the shear line is affecting Calabarzon, Bicol, Metro Manila, Aurora, Northern Samar, and Eastern Samar on Saturday, causing scattered rain and isolated thunderstorms.

Below is PAGASA's updated three-day rainfall outlook for the provinces most affected by the shear line. Saturday, February 7

- Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm): Quezon, Camarines Norte

Sunday, February 8

- Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm): Quezon, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Camarines Norte

Monday, February 9

- Moderate to heavy rain (50-100 mm): Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Northern Samar

Another source of rain on Saturday is the [northeast monsoon](#) or amihan, which may trigger moderate to at times heavy rain in Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, and Apayao, as well as isolated light rain in other parts of Northern Luzon and Central Luzon.

Strong to gale-force gusts are also possible in the following areas due to the surge of the northeast monsoon:

Saturday, February 7

- most of Luzon, Western Visayas, most of Negros Island Region, Zamboanga del Norte

Sunday, February 8

- most of Luzon, Aklan, Antique

Monday, February 9

- most of Luzon, Northern Samar, northern part of Eastern Samar, northern part of Samar, Biliran, northern part of Cebu, Negros Occidental, Western Visayas

Moderate to very rough sea conditions may also persist on Saturday.

Up to very rough seas (travel is risky for all vessels)

- Seaboards of Batanes – waves up to 5 meters high
- Northern seaboard of Babuyan Islands – waves up to 4.5 meters high

Up to rough seas (small vessels should not venture out to sea)

- Remaining seaboards of Babuyan Islands; seaboards of Ilocos Norte – waves up to 4 meters high
- Seaboards of Ilocos Sur, Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, and northern Quezon; northern and eastern seaboards of Polillo Islands – waves up to 3 meters high

Up to moderate seas (small vessels should take precautionary measures or avoid sailing, if possible)

- Remaining seaboards of Ilocos Region; northern seaboards of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur; northern and eastern seaboards of Catanduanes and Northern Samar; eastern seaboards of Albay, Sorsogon, Eastern Samar, Dinagat Islands, Siargao-Bucas Grande Islands, Surigao del Sur, and Davao Oriental – waves up to 2.5 meters high
- Eastern seaboard of Davao Occidental – waves up to 2 meters high

Basyang was the Philippines' second [tropical cyclone](#) for 2026, after Tropical Storm Ada (Nokaen) in January. PAGASA previously estimated there would be up to one tropical cyclone in February.

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Featuring a series of informational materials released through CCC’s Facebook and Instagram platforms, the campaign aims to raise public awareness on bamboo’s role in climate action and promote inclusive and sustainable development that places communities at the center of resilience building.

“With wider and well-planned bamboo development, we can strengthen climate resilience, reinforce adaptation measures, and protect communities, especially those most exposed to climate risks,” CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje said.

“Engineered bamboo alone has the capacity to generate up to P400 billion in annual revenue. This figure does not yet account for the many small-scale enterprises that depend on bamboo for crafts, housing materials, and local products. Through bamboo cultivation, we create jobs, support local industries, and advance climate action at the same time,” he added.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC, Taguig City Explore Deeper Cooperation on Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Urban Development](#)

By: Climate Change Commission

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), led by Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje, met with Taguig City Mayor Lani Cayetano to discuss climate action, sustainability, and collaboration.

TAGUIG CITY, Metro Manila — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with Taguig City Mayor Maria Laarni “Lani” Lopez Cayetano to discuss the city’s climate initiatives, sustainable practices, and potential areas of cooperation aligned with national strategies to strengthen local climate action and urban resilience.

The meeting highlighted Taguig City’s ongoing efforts in sustainability and climate governance, as well as opportunities to further enhance the implementation and mainstreaming of its local climate plans. Discussions centered on nature-based and people-centered solutions that respond to the city’s unique context as a lakeside urban community, with particular attention to protecting livelihoods dependent on Laguna Lake, following its trademark identity as a “Probinsyudad,” a portmanteau of probinsya (province) and siyudad (city).

“These are not merely projects for their own sake; they are initiatives designed to address the real needs of our people, ensuring that no one, including fisherfolk, is left behind,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje. “Taguig City’s Probinsyudad concept, which redefines progress and prosperity, offers a valuable policy lesson for other LGUs in Metro Manila to develop their own localized models of sustainable development.”

“True progress is not measured only by infrastructure or economic growth, but by whether communities are safer, livelihoods are protected, and future generations inherit a stable and healthy home,” Borje further pointed out.

Mayor Cayetano emphasized the city’s commitment to urgent climate action, fostering partnerships, and advancing sustainability and community participation through initiatives, including youth-focused climate advocacy.

“Climate action is more urgent than ever, and our City continues to take meaningful steps by partnering with organizations that champion sustainability and community participation,” Mayor Cayetano said. “Through collaborations on youth leadership and climate advocacy, we are moving closer to a sustainable and climate-conscious Probinsyudad.”

The CCC recognized Taguig City’s integrated approach to urban sustainability, which balances development with heritage conservation, livelihood protection, and inclusive growth, highlighting the city’s approach as a potential model for other local governments. The Commission also emphasized that initiatives such as sustainable lakeshore management, urban and water-based

farming, public open spaces, and climate-responsive urban planning are consistent with the National Adaptation Plan and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan, both developed under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

The meeting also explored opportunities for capacity building and collaboration in climate planning, urban adaptation, sustainable agriculture, climate finance, youth engagement, and public awareness campaigns.

The engagement attests to the CCC's commitment to support local governments in strengthening climate governance and accelerating inclusive, science-based, and people-centered climate action.

MANILA BULLETIN

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By: [Jel Santos](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) called on vice governors to take a more active role in climate risk governance, citing their strategic position in driving policies that protect communities from climate impacts.

During the 103rd Year-End National Assembly of the League of Vice Governors of the Philippines (LVGP), CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said Vice Governors occupy “the critical intersection where plans meet priorities, where evidence meets action, and where strategy becomes alignment across the entire province.”

According to Borje, this strategic position empowers Vice Governors to spearhead efforts that protect lives, sustain livelihoods, and safeguard the long-term future of their provinces.

Borje connected the leadership role of vice governors to national policy frameworks, citing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as a key guide for communities in identifying locally appropriate adaptation practices and projects tailored to specific vulnerabilities.

CCC said the NAP embodies the administration’s vision and plan of action for achieving a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines.

“These insights allow Vice Governors to understand—not vaguely, but precisely—what hazards your provinces face and how those hazards intersect with population, livelihoods, and infrastructure,” he stated.

Per Borje, the Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) must be anchored in the NAP to ensure provincial strategies are science-driven, evidence-based, and aligned with national priorities.

“Such alignment strengthens risk governance by making adaptation actions responsive, measurable, and sustainable,” CCC said.

As such, Borje underscored the People’s Survival Fund (PSF) as a key financing mechanism for local adaptation initiatives.

“From 2023 to 2025, the PSF Board significantly accelerated the approval of projects and Project Development Grants, resulting in a sharp increase in fund utilization from just over 30 percent to near full commitment,” the agency said.

“By May 2024, the initial Php 1 billion allocation had been fully committed and exceeded by Php 321.6 million.”

The CCC said an additional P1 billion was appropriated under the 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA) to sustain the expanded pipeline, raising the portfolio to 15 projects and nine Project Development Grants (PDGs) with a total value of approximately P1.4 billion.

“These developments make the PSF a more accessible and reliable financing option, helping local governments secure funds to strengthen climate resilience in their communities,” he said.

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